AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS: This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant patent application.

1-73 (Cancelled)

74. (Previously Presented) A method for diagnosing colon, breast or prostate cancer in a patient comprising comparing a level of very low density lipoprotein receptor (VLDLR) mRNA having a nucleotide sequence at least 95% identical to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:43 in a patient sample comprising colon, breast or prostate tissue to the level of the VLDLR mRNA in a normal control; and diagnosing colon, breast or prostate cancer in said patient based on an increase of at least 50% from the level of the VLDLR mRNA in the patient sample relative to the level in the normal control.

75. (Cancelled)

76. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 74 wherein the VLDLR mRNA comprises a nucleotide sequence at least 98% identical to a sequence of SEQ ID NO:43, said mRNA encoding a receptor which binds lipoprotein (LDL).

77. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 74 wherein the VLDLR mRNA comprises SEQ ID NO:43.

78. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 74 wherein colon, breast or prostate cancer is diagnosed in said patient based on an increase of at least 100% from the level of the VLDLR mRNA in the patient sample relative to the normal control.

79-89 (Cancelled)

90. (Previously Presented) A method of diagnosing colon, breast or prostate cancer in a patient comprising:

(a) contacting a polynucleotide that hybridizes under highly stringent conditions to a nucleic acid having the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:43 with nucleic acids of a patient colon, breast or prostate sample under binding conditions suitable to form a duplex, wherein hybridization is performed at 50°C to 60°C in 5 X SSC (9 mM saline/0.9 mM sodium citrate);

(b) comparing the amount of the duplex formed to the amount of duplex formed when the polynucleotide is contacted with nucleic acids of a non-cancerous colon, breast or prostate control,

and c) diagnosing colon, breast or prostate cancer based on an increase of at least 50% of the amount of duplex formed upon contacting said polynucleotide with said nucleic acids of the patient sample compared to the amount of duplex formed upon contacting said polynucleotide and said nucleic acids of the non-cancerous control.

91-92. (Cancelled)

93. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 74, wherein the nucleotide sequence has a sequence identity of at least about 98% with the sequence of SEQ ID NO:43, or a full complement thereof.

94. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 74, wherein said nucleotide sequence comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO:43, or a full complement thereof.

95-97. (Cancelled)